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Message Text

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FOL RPT PARIS 18751 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OTTAWA THE HAGUE
TOKYO LISBON MADRID LONDON BONN BRUSSELS 13 JUN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 18751

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, EAID, EFIN, PINS, MOPS
SUBJ: BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON PARIS
MEETING ON ZAIRE

REF: STATE 148408

1. FROM PARIS PERSPECTIVE WE HAVE SEVERAL PROBLEMS
WITH REFTEL TALKING POINTS FOR BRIEFING ON PARIS MEETING.
THE FIRST RELATES TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF A UNI-
LATERAL BRIEFING ON THE JUNE 5 MEETING WHICH THE OTHER
PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTOOD WAS TO BE A CONFIDENTIAL
GATHERING WHERE VIEWS COULD BE AIRED INFORMALLY,
FRANKLY, AND IN AN EXPLORATORY WAY. ON THIS POINT WE
CAN APPRECIATE THAT THE NEED TO KEEP OUR AFRICAN AND
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OTHER FRIENDS INFORMED MAY HAVE TO TAKE PRECEDENCE
OVER THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY ON CONSULTATIONS.
MOREOVER, THE PRESS IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT
AND HAS ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO GET A FAIR GENERAL PICTURE.

2. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A
MISTAKE TO AIR WIDELY THE QUESTION OF DISAGREEMENTS

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BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE FRENCH OVER SECURITY CONCERNS. WE AND THE OTHERS EFFECTIVELY RESISTED FRENCH ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN THE DISCUSSIONS TO OTHER MATTERS AND THUS, THOUGH THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH TO THE MEETING, THERE WAS NOT MUCH DEBATE DURING THE MEETING ON THIS QUESTION. WE THINK THE TALKING POINTS EXAGGERATE THE EXTENT OF DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH BUT WE ALSO DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE MIGHT GAIN IN RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES BY DISTANCING OURSELVES FROM THE FRENCH WOULD BE WORTH WHAT IT COULD COST IN FUTURE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON AFRICAN MATTERS.

3. THE LAST POINT RELATES TO THE QUESTION OF THE DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU. THE FOUR OTHERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS ARE IN FAVOR OF A DEMARCHE BUT IT WILL NOT NOW TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE BRUSSELS MEETING WHICH IS ALREADY IN SESSION. MOREOVER, SOME OF OUR ALLIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE BELGIANS, HAVE AGREED TO A JOINT DEMARCHE ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT IT BE KEPT SECRET. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES SINCE THE PARIS MEETING THAT THERE IS GREAT CONCERN THAT MOBUTU NOT BE "HUMILIATED" IN A WAY WHICH WOULD ENABLE HIM TO ACCUSE THE WESTERN COUNTRIES OF SEEKING TO IMPOSE A TUTELAGE AND THUS EFFECTIVELY WIGGLE OUT OF THE REFORMS WE BADLY WISH

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TO IMPOSE IN HIM.

4. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT MODIFY TALKING POINTS PER ABOVE FOR THOSE CASES WHERE APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN MADE.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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